THE MINISTER OF PRALIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Two complete proposals for construction of Yatri Niwases at Shegaon and Latur were received and Central financial assistance of Rs. 25,97,505/- in 1986-87 and Rs. 19.17 lakhs in 1991-92 respectively were sanctioned.

Flights for Ranchi-Bombay-Madras

1047. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to direct airlink Ranchi with Bombay and Madras;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Due to crew constraints, Indian Airlines has, at present, no plans to link Ranchi with Bombay and Madras. However, private operators are encouraged to add new sectors.

[English]

Production of Small 29 Seater/other Aircrafts

1048. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to produce 29 seater or other small aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these aircrafts are likely to feed other aircrafts and replace outdated aircrafts of Vayudoot;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the firms with which the Government are negotiating to produce the above aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) No proposal has been received for manufacture of 29-seater aircraft. The following proposals for manufacture of small aircraft have however been received :

1. *M/s National Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore* :

(i) 2 Seater Hansa-3 trainer aircraft, and (ii) 14 seater Saras twin turboprop multirole light transport aircraft.

2. *M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Bangalore* :

14 seater twin engine Advanced Light Helicopter.

Besides, Director General of Civil Aviation has granted approval to M/s Bashi Aerospace, Bangalore, to design 2 Seater trainer aircraft.

There is no proposal to replace Vayudoot fleet with any of the above aircraft.

[Translation]

Development of Sunder Ban

1049. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Sunder Ban of West Bengal as a tourist place;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Development of Tourist Places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Department of Tourism extends financial assistance every year for the projects received from the State Governments, including West Bengal, on the basis of their merits and inter se priority. During 1988-89, Rs. 49.50 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government of West Bengal to purchase a cruise vessel for the Sunderbans.

[English]

Draft Tourism Action Plan

1050. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Draft Tourism Action Plan, presented in Parliament in 1992, a target of receiving 5 million foreign tourist by 1996-97 was set up;

(b) if so, whether the Government have failed to achieve even 40 percent of this target; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The National Action Plan for Tourism presented in the Parliament set a target of increasing the share of India to one percent of the world tourist arrivals within a period of five years.

(b) and (c). In view of constraints of infrastructural facilities and the necessary financial resources for the development of such facilities, a target of 5 million tourists have been now set for 2000 A.D. on the assumption that such facilities would be created with the efforts of Central and State Governments and the private sector by that time. The foreign tourist arrivals during 1995-96 were 21,90,334. Terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and unexpected events like plague also affected tourist arrivals adversely.